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## PRESIDENT SOEHARTO OF INDONESIA, TOGO FAMILY WELFARE AGENCY TO RECEIVE 1989 UNITED NATIONS POPULATION AWARD

NEW YORK, 24 February (UNFPA) -- President Soeharto of Indonesia and the Programme National de Bien-etre Familial of Togo, will share the 1989 United Nations Population Award.

The Award is presented annually to one or more individuals and/or institutions that have made an outstanding contribution to increasing the awareness of population problems and to their solution. The 1989 Award winners were announced today by the Chairman of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award, Mario Moya-Palencia (Mexico). This year, each winner will receive a diploma, a gold medal and a monetary prize of $12,500.

President Soeharto was chosen by the Committee for providing strong support over the past 20 years for the national family planning programme of Indonesia. During the period of President Soeharto's leadership, birth, fertility and infant mortality rates have declined dramatically and the current contraceptive use rate is almost 50 per cent of eligible couples.

Togo's Programme National de Bien-etre Familial (National Family Welfare Programme) was chosen for its work in promoting family welfare. Through the Programme National de Bien-etre, the Government provides family planning services, although the Programme's major orientation is to family health. Infant mortality and child mortality rates have fallen considerably over the past two decades as a result of the Programme's activities.

The Chairman of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award, Mr. Moya-Palencia (Mexico), said the Award "recognizes the important work and international influence of President Soeharto in population. Also, it hopes to encourage the continued efforts of Togo's Programme National de Bien-etre Familial to bring family planning and maternal and child health care to its people. It should be noted that the winners come from two critical regions -- Asia and sub-Saharan Africa -- where population growth must be brought into balance with resources if we are to have a liveable world in the twenty-first century".

(more)

The winners will receive the Award at a ceremony at Headquarters on 8 June.

The 1988 winners were Shidzue Kato, a Japanese family planning pioneer and PROFAMILIA (Asociacion Pro-Bienestar de la Familia Colombiana).

The winners of the first Award in 1983 were Indira Gandhi, the late Prime Minister of India, and Qian Xinzhong, Minister in Charge of the State Family Planning Commission of China. Carmen A. Miro, of Panama, and Sheldon J. Segal, of the United States, were the 1984 winners. In 1985, the International Planned Parenthood Federation received the Award. In 1986, the winner was the National Population Council of Mexico (Consejo Nacional de Poblacion de Mexico). In 1987, the winners were President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, of Bangladesh, and l'Office National de la Famille et de la Population (National Office for the Family and Population), of Tunisia.

The Population Award Committee is currently comprised of representatives of Byelorussia, Ecuador, India, Japan, Mauritius, Mexico, Pakistan, Rwanda, Togo and Turkey. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, Dr. Nafis Sadik, serve as ex-officio members. In addition, the Committee has five eminent individuals as honorary members, who serve in an advisory capacity for a renewable term of three years.

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